

Mr. TEAKLE: We advertised them all over, even in England.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: They were advertised in several marine journals and no bids were received. Then not being able to sell them by competitive bids, as opportunity presented and as an inquiry came in which looked as if it might be an attractive price, we proceeded to negotiate with that particular buyer, and if we got him to the point where the price was acceptable, we accepted it.

Mr. BOYS: Were bids to be received for all the ships as a lot, or for any one of them?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: The advertisements said that tenders might be submitted for one or more of the entire 27 vessels; tenders to be accompanied by cheque for 5 per cent of the amount of the tender; cheque to be made payable to the order of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, and accepted by a chartered bank; the highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. And also that plans and specification of steamers could be seen, and particulars of the ships.

Mr. BOYS: That advertisement was inserted in what papers?

Mr. TEAKLE: We had it all over. I have not got the list here, but we can give you a list of them.

Mr. BOYS: Would you say half a dozen?

Mr. TEAKLE: More than that.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Would there be a dozen?

Mr. TEAKLE: More than that, Sir Henry.

Mr. HEAPS: Will you give us a list of the papers?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Certainly, we will give you that.

Mr. BOYS: Then we understand there were no tenders received from any person, or corporation in answer to the advertisement referred to?

Mr. TEAKLE: Not from memory, Mr. Boys.

Mr. BOYS: If you say it is so, I will at once accept it, but, if you are not sure of it, I think we should have this information.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: As far as I remember, we had no tenders, but we will look it up and submit to you any tenders we have received.

Mr. BOYS: I may say that I have heard some criticism over this very thing. Personally, I do not want to use any criticism, unless it is just.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: There is no one more anxious to give out all information than ourselves; we are anxious to tell you everything we can, everything that is in our power.

Mr. BOYS: I know that thoroughly, Sir Henry, but if this criticism is not justified, it should be cleared up. We require to know that you advertised the vessels, and that no tenders were received, and we should also know with some degree of certainty to whom you wrote. You had very few persons or corporations in Canada to whom you could sell, or who might wish to buy, and the information should be easily obtained. I think it would also be well to give a copy of the letters which were sent, and to whom they were sent.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: We will get everything you want, Mr. Boys.

Mr. BOYS: Not every thing, but every possible thing.

Mr. POWER: I understood yesterday that somebody had tendered on the boats, but that the tenders were so low, that no business could be done.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Those were thrown overboard, as far as we were concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: However, we are assured that we will get all the figures.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: In regard to General Clark's questions, and the statement which is to be submitted, I think also in the same statement should be included the amount set up for depreciation, as a deduction from the prices at which you could complete those vessels.